

INTERESTING FROM ARKANSAS.

Colonel Clayton's Cavalry Expedition in the Direction of Little Rock.

The Command Engaged with Marmaduke's Rebel Forces.

Colonel Clayton's Fight at Taylor's Creek.

Colonel Jenkins' Gallant Fight with Carter's Brigade.

The Rebel Charges Bravely and Steadily Repulsed.

The Positions of the Rebel Generals Price and Marmaduke Clearly Ascertained.

The Correspondence of Mr. E. L. Maynard.

HEADQUARTERS, SECOND BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, HELIXIA, Ark., May 15, 1863.

I informed your readers in my last letter that the authorities had determined to break up the guerrilla bands that have caused so much trouble of late, and for that purpose had sent out Colonel Clayton, of the Fifth Kansas Cavalry regiment, in charge of an expedition for that purpose. I did not at that time particularize by giving the number of men in his command or the route that they were expected to take, fearing lest such a statement might fall into the hands of others than those for whom it was intended, thereby disclosing a well matured plan of the command.

Colonel Clayton's expedition was successful. The expedition has just returned, having been eminently successful, by far exceeding our general's most sanguine expectations. Its result (as will be seen as we progress) is greatly due to the bravery and courage of the command and other veterans who served in his command.

THE OBJECT OF THE PRESENT EXPEDITION was threefold. First, to drive out of the country or capture the different guerrilla bands, supposed to have numbered about six to eight hundred, under the command of Colonel Dobbin. Second, to ascertain if possible the truth of the rumor that the rebels contemplated an attack on Helena, and were massing their forces for that express purpose. Third, to destroy the enemy's supplies. To carry out this programme, Colonel Clayton, with a force of 1,200 cavalry, 1,000 infantry and one section of artillery (Hayden's battery), started on the 6th of May for the enemy's country, the Colonel leading the infantry, the section of artillery and a company of the Third Iowa Cavalry, all under the command of Colonel Rice, of the Third Iowa Cavalry, on the road leading directly to Cotton Plant, while he, with 1,100 cavalry, took the middle route for Clarendon, arriving at this place in due time. Not finding any force at this place the Colonel proceeded immediately to the cross roads at Clarendon.

By the way, it was ascertained that General Price and a force of three brigades of infantry and four companies of artillery between the Arkansas and White rivers—a distance of about fifty miles. On their arrival at the cross roads Colonel Rice joined them with his command, having learned that the rebels had a negro camp at a short distance from this point. Colonel Jenkins, of the Fifth Kansas, was sent to break it up, and captured twenty negroes.

Before moving farther Colonel Rice, with his command, was ordered on a reconnaissance in the vicinity of Cotton Plant. To reach this place it became necessary to cross the Bayou de Voe, but after an examination it was found to be impracticable, as it would consume too much time to bridge the swamp so that it would admit the passage of the cavalry and artillery; and, as it was as certain from a reliable source that there was no enemy there, Colonel Rice concluded to return to Marianna and look after the guerrilla chief Jobbins, who was said to be somewhere in that vicinity, and also to be in supporting distance of our cavalry, should they need his assistance.

COLONEL CLAYTON FLEWING ONWARD.

In the meantime Colonel Clayton had pushed on his force to the Languelle river. Thus far nothing had been heard of the whereabouts of the enemy; indeed there was nothing definite whether there was an enemy on the east side of the Languelle or not; but the Colonel was determined to find out. He was now and then giving him a look over the river, and as this was not considered to be prudent, he was prudent to guard it and prevent it being destroyed; for if they were attacked by superior numbers it would be the only means of escape. Consequently the First Indiana Cavalry were detailed for that purpose, while the balance of the force were sent out in different directions. Colonel Jenkins, with the Fifth Kansas and Fifth Illinois Cavalry, going across to Taylor's creek, five miles distant, to reconnoitre, was informed that Dobbin had crossed the Languelle that afternoon at Hughes' Ferry, and consequently could not be at any great distance. This news was immediately sent to Colonel Clayton, who ordered him to advance on the following morning at daylight, and that he (Clayton) would follow with his remaining force, and join him as soon as it was possible.

THE REBEL GENERAL MARMADUKE'S POSITION.

But before the dawn of day a contraband made his way into the camp and apprised Colonel Jenkins that General Marmaduke, with his whole command, was encamped not more than twenty-five miles from him on the Taylor's creek. That Marmaduke was in this position, and that the expedition should give him and his forces a battle, never was contemplated; for it was expected, and from the best information that has been received at this point, we were led to conclude, that Marmaduke, after his defeat at Cape Girardeau by our forces, had retreated in a very different direction from that which the present indicated. At first Colonel Jenkins was not inclined to give credit to the statement of the contraband, yet, after due consideration the Colonel concluded that such a fact might exist as that Marmaduke's brigade was at the place indicated. He was, however, not inclined to believe that it was of vital importance that the rebel command of Colonel Clayton should be informed at the earliest opportunity. Consequently a messenger was immediately dispatched to Colonel Clayton, giving him the desired information.

MATTHEWS NOW WAS COMING TO A CRISIS.

It was estimated that Matthews would be at that place, it was estimated that he must have several thousand men with him, and to make an attack on him with the small force that we had at our disposal, thought many of the officers would be in our defeat. Yet the officers and men were anxious to meet the notorious Marmaduke. Col. Clayton, well knowing the superior fighting qualities of his men, resolved to make the attempt, and to his credit be it said, he was not disappointed.

COLONEL CLAYTON MARCHED TO MEET MARMADUKE.

With a detachment of the First Indiana Cavalry, numbering two hundred and thirty men and two small rifle regiments, leaving the main body of his command to guard the bridge, he had proceeded but a short distance before the two forces came together. After a brisk fight our small force succeeded in driving Marmaduke from the town (Taylor's creek) to the wood above the town, on the Wittsburg river.

THE BATTLE AT TAYLOR'S CREEK.

Leaving one company (as a rear guard) of forty men, the Colonel then ordered the remainder of his force, one hundred and ninety strong, to dismount, letting their horses be driven forward, and deployed them on the right and left, and moved to the timber. The two pieces of artillery were then placed in position, when the second charge was made. The rebels were driven back, and the men were immediately formed into a column and marched forthwith to the bridge. Just before their arrival there they were met by a force of about five hundred men, who were in advance of the main force, came up to the bridge for the purpose of burning it, but were quickly dispersed by Capt. Sigurd.

THE BRIDGE ATTACK.

Colonel Clayton, on his arrival at the bridge, had no other plan than to place his artillery on an eminence that commanded the bridge and placed his men in position before the rebels could get to the bridge. His appearance and opened upon our force with artillery and musketry, keeping up an incessant firing for half an hour. Not gaining the position, he fell back behind the adjoining bridge, and there he remained for some time, during which it is expected the rebels with his small force were their strongest, concluded to remain at the bridge.

He was anxious to hear from Colonel Jenkins, as he had

not heard from him since he sent him in pursuit of Jobbins, the evening before. At that time, it will be borne in mind, Colonel Jenkins was to reconnoitre in the vicinity of Taylor's creek, and find out, if possible, the whereabouts of Dobbin's guerrillas and return to the bridge the next night. Colonel Clayton, on the receipt of the first news of the retreat of the rebels, word to Col. Jenkins to move his command in pursuit, and that he would follow immediately; but when the news came that Marmaduke was above him on Taylor's creek, he went immediately in that direction, without informing Col. Jenkins. At first it was far to presume that Col. Jenkins would try to join him at the appointed place, and if he were not there he certainly would march back by the route of the Languelle. Col. Clayton came to the conclusion that Col. Jenkins must know of Marmaduke's forces being between the two commands, and that he knew of the close proximity of the infantry on the other side of the Languelle, and of near Marianna. Taking these facts into consideration, the Colonel felt assured that Jenkins' good judgment would lead him to abandon the idea of joining at the bridge, and cause him to cross the Languelle at Hughes' Ferry, the only feasible line of retreat.

WHAT COLONEL JENKINS REMAINED WHERE HE WAS. Fearing not to attack the enemy so long as we remained in the position at the bridge, the Colonel thought it advisable to remain in his position and watch the movements of the enemy. While at this place several citizens were brought into our camp, and from them we ascertained that the enemy from the opposite side could make a detour to the right, crossing at a bridge about two miles above, and cut off our retreat in the rear, and also that they could do the same at the left, crossing at a ford about five miles below. Calculating the distance, we concluded that if the enemy took either of these routes they could not arrive in our rear before five o'clock at night. Colonel Clayton, thus knowing his position, and that a possible emergency might need Col. Clayton caused the camp area to be replenished, and had the pickets that were posted in front of the enemy destroyed a few of the pickets, so that they might know that we were still at the bridge. We then quietly resumed the march toward Helena, feeling confident that Col. Jenkins would not attempt to join us at any of these points.

ON THE RECEIPT OF THE NEWS THAT GENERAL MARMADUKE was at Taylor's creek, Col. Jenkins, appreciating the importance of consolidating our small forces, started the next morning as it was light to join Col. Clayton at the bridge. He proceeded, however, for a considerable distance before his advance guard came upon the enemy. We may properly designate this as Col. Jenkins' retreat. It was one of the most glorious achievements over the enemy that I have ever had to record in this department. He was able to cause a force of twenty hundred men from the field. He certainly deserves the greatest praise. From the official report I am enabled to give you the following details:—

Just as we had gone some four and a half or five miles, just as we were nearing "Oldfield's," we heard some ten or twelve shots from the extreme advance. In a few minutes the firing was again heard, and a short time back at full speed from Captain Harrington to hurry up the column. The bugle was sounded, and the force was soon on the gallop. Soon the enemy appeared in sight, drawn up in line for battle. Captain Harrington, company, being in the advance, received at this moment a heavy volley. The main column, seven companies having now arrived, they were ordered to dismount and prepare to fight on foot. One company was then ordered to the right and left as skirmishers, one company as rear guard, and the rest to the right and left to mark against any flank movement; the balance of the men were posted in the center.

THE FIRE—THE REBELS STAGGERED. When this was done an advance was ordered. The fire of our men was so well directed that we caused the enemy to break and retire three different times, driving him some five or six hundred yards each time beyond the cross roads. All this occupied about three-quarters of an hour. We now reached a point that was well calculated to withstand a large force, appearances indicating that the enemy was soon to renew his attack. The men were ordered to cover the road and reserve their fire until the enemy came within forty yards. In a few minutes they were received a most terrific volley from their side. They then retired to the right and left, and a regiment was seen coming down upon us in columns of platoons, with their colors flying and the feet of their horses making the very earth shake.

THE FIRE OF THE REBELS—THEIR RETREAT AND THE REBELS. When within fifty or sixty yards they broke out into a loud and prolonged shout, and then they commenced driving the noise of the firing; and now it was that the Fifth Kansas showed themselves in their true light and so well sustained the gallant reputation of their young soldiers. All this occupied about three-quarters of an hour. We now reached a point that was well calculated to withstand a large force, appearances indicating that the enemy was soon to renew his attack. The men were ordered to cover the road and reserve their fire until the enemy came within forty yards. In a few minutes they were received a most terrific volley from their side. They then retired to the right and left, and a regiment was seen coming down upon us in columns of platoons, with their colors flying and the feet of their horses making the very earth shake.

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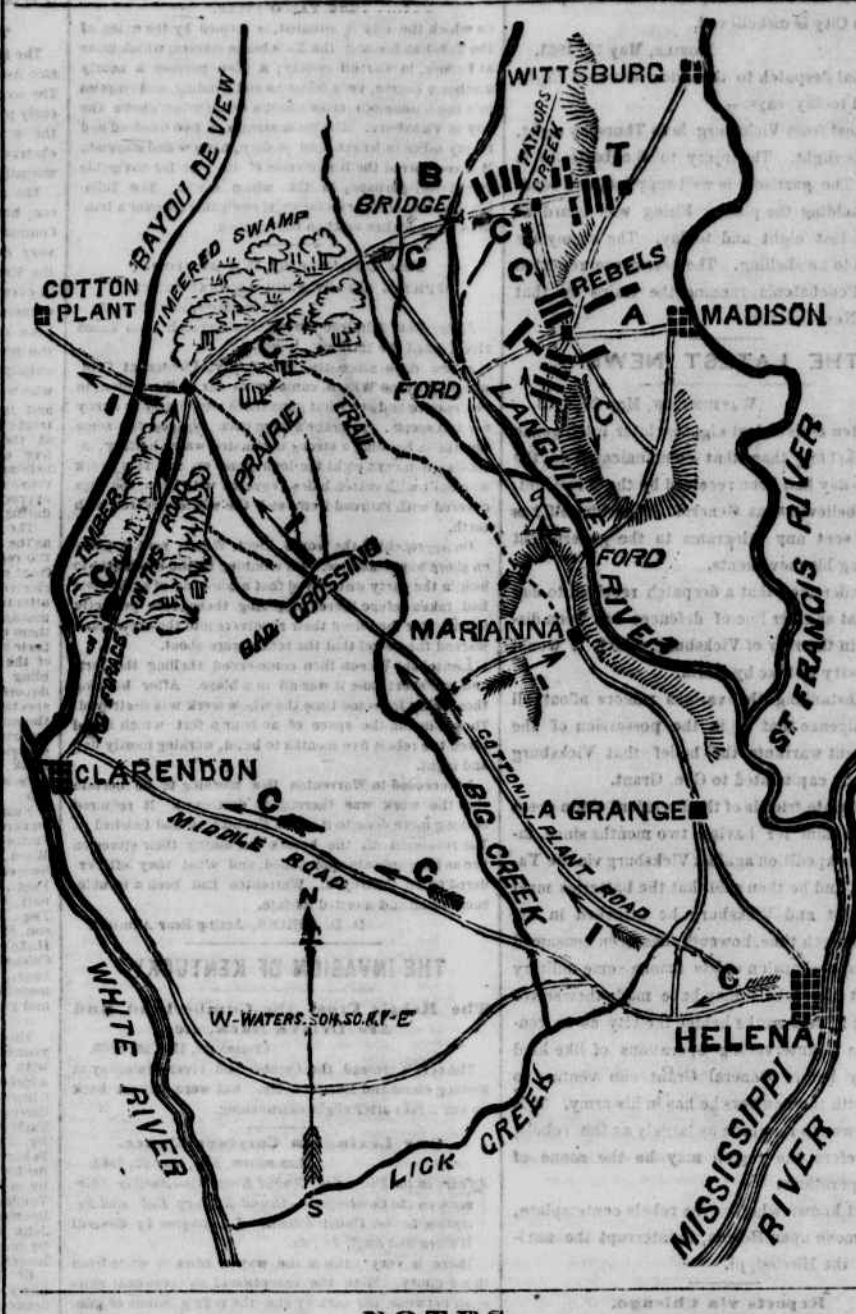
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THE REBELS IN ARKANSAS.

Operations of Our Cavalry Towards Little Rock—See Letter from Helena.



NOTES. The arrows marked C indicate the march of the cavalry. The arrows marked I indicate the march of the infantry. B is the bridge over the Languelle, where Col. Clayton after he engaged the enemy at the village T (Taylor's Creek). The test near Marianna is where Colonel Dobbin was posted with a view of cutting off Col. Jenkins' retreat. It was the approach of Colonel Rice's command that drove him away and permitted Col. Jenkins' retreat.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Board of Councilmen. THE HOSPITALITIES OF THE CITY TO BE TENDERED TO GENERAL MEAGHER—THE PORTFOLIO OF CHICAGO CONVENTION—THE STRAY BILLY FARM COMPANY—ADOPTION OF THE TAX LEVY, ETC.

A special meeting of the Board of Councilmen was held at three o'clock yesterday, Morgan Jones, Reg. President, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Councilman Jones introduced a preamble and resolution tendering the hospitalities of the city to General Thomas Francis Meagher, on the occasion of his arrival in this city, after his resignation of the command of the Irish Brigade.

The resolution of Councilman Hays, the resolution was adopted by a vote of nineteen in the affirmative to two in the negative.

The following communication was received from the Mayor in reference to the forthcoming Chicago Convention.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, New York, May 25, 1863. TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMON COUNCIL, CITY OF NEW YORK:—I beg to call your attention to a call for a National Convention, to be held at the city of Chicago, on the 17th of September next.

You will observe that it is signed by about one hundred members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, and also by the Attorney General of the United States, and also by the Attorney General of the State of New York.

A petition signed by a number of the residents on Staten Island was presented, praying for redress against the alleged oppression of the colored people of that island by the colored people of that island.

The petitioners pray that sections 9, 10 and 11 of the bill for the relief of the colored people of Staten Island be repealed, and that the colored people of that island be restored to their former position.

The annual tax levy, as adopted by the Common Council and afterwards amended by the Legislature, was adopted by a vote of fifteen in the affirmative to thirteen in the negative.

After transacting a large amount of routine business the Board, after a session of about four hours, adjourned until Thursday evening next, at four o'clock.

Presenting by the Grand Jury Against the Use of Dangerous Weapons, Particularly by the Police.

Before Hon. Judge Leonard. MAY 25.—The Grand Jury made the following presentment respecting the reckless use of firearms and dangerous weapons in this city, both by the police and by grown persons and youths:—

The grand inquest deem it their duty to refer the subject of carrying and using dangerous weapons, and particularly the use of firearms by the police of this city, not only to their attention but to the attention of the public.

The number of crimes committed by the use of knives has of late seriously increased. Not only are these weapons used by adults, but examinations have revealed that the most vicious and dangerous of these weapons are used by the young.

The examinations which have been had before the grand inquest in relation to the use of firearms by the police of this city show that many of the policemen have resorted to the use of the revolver, and that the use of the revolver is becoming more and more prevalent.

THE RETURNING REGIMENTS.

Arrival of the Thirty-second New York State Volunteers.

The Thirty-second New York State Volunteers, under command of Colonel Frank E. Pinto, arrived in this city at six o'clock yesterday afternoon, and are now at the Park Barracks. They number some five hundred men, and look remarkably well after their two years' campaign.

This regiment has been in nearly every fought campaign, and has been distinguished by its valor and courage. It was organized in 1861, and has since that time been in the front of every battle.

The following special order, issued by Major General Sedgwick, is highly creditable to the gallant regiment:—

SPECIAL ORDER—NO. 130. HEADQUARTERS, FIFTH ARMY CORPS, May 25, 1863. 4. The term of service of the Thirty-second New York State Volunteers having expired, that regiment will proceed on Monday, the 25th inst., to the city of New York, the place of enrollment, when it will be mustered out of service.

On the receipt of this gallant regiment from the service is a case of much regret to the Major General commanding. The Thirty-second New York State Volunteers have been identified with the Fifth Army Corps from its first organization, and have not only borne the brunt of the most severe fighting, but have also been in the front of every battle.

The General commanding the corps congratulates the officers and men upon their honorable retirement from the service, and assures them that they have bravely deserved the thanks of the country and the army.

By command of Major General SEDGWICK. V. E. McMANIS, A. A. G.

The following are the officers:— Colonel—Frank E. Pinto. Lieutenant Colonel—Charles Hubbs. Adjutant—John Stewart.

Company Officers:— Captain—John Stewart. First Lieutenant—W. Davidson. Second Lieutenant—D. Yates. Third Lieutenant—D. Yates. Fourth Lieutenant—D. Yates.

The city authorities will formally receive the regiment this afternoon. A dinner will be given in the evening at the Park Barracks. The Eighth regiment, N. G., will act as escort.

PURSUANT TO DIVISION AND BRIGADE ORDERS this regiment will proceed on Monday, the 25th inst., to the city of New York, the place of enrollment, when it will be mustered out of service.

THE THIRTY-SECOND REGIMENT N. Y. S. V. Preparations are now being made in the city for the reception of the Thirty-second regiment N. Y. S. V. (Second South Light Guards), which is expected to arrive in the city on the 25th inst.

Arrival of the Third Regiment N. Y. S. V.—Their Reception in Albany, &c. Four hundred men of this command, whose term of service has expired, passed up the river on the 14th and arrived at Albany on the 15th inst.

THE ESCAPE FROM THE GRAND DUKE MICHAEL. The following narrative of the dangers and escape of the Russian Grand Duke Michael from the Circassians will be found interesting.

On the 25th of Ramadan the Grand Duke Michael, having come to visit Circassia, was surrounded by Circassian warriors, and a battle which lasted three hours was fought in a level place called Kalka-Yash, the line of which was the line of the Grand Duke's escape.

On his going to Lian Lyan, in Turk, to look after the inhabitants, the army of Shapur and Ibrahim came against him, and a battle which lasted three hours was fought in a level place called Kalka-Yash, the line of which was the line of the Grand Duke's escape.

THE TURKISH. Paris, May 15, 1863. The Paris papers publish telegrams from Bagdad, dated this day, announcing that fresh disturbances have broken out in the city of Bagdad, and that the Turkish authorities are endeavoring to suppress them.

THE BUREAU OF THE GREAT INDIAN RAILWAY. The Bureau of the Great Indian Railway has been successfully opened. Gray shirting and mule twist firm. Cotton doll. Mail exchange London, six months, first class credits, 2s. 3d.

THE NAVY. Letters, papers and parcels, properly directed, and left at the Lyons, Brooklyn Navy Yard, will be forwarded by the supply steamer "Albatross," which sails on the 4th of June. She will stop at Port Royal and other ports for her route.

THE RETURN HOME OF THE SECOND MAINE REGIMENT. The Second Maine regiment, a two years' organization, arrived in this city today at ten o'clock. They were received at the wharf by the military, friends, and friends of the regiment, who were met by the Mayor, who was welcomed to the City Hall, where a banquet was given.

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